

mercercorridorproject

A SEATTLE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2005



“Mercer will be a new gateway to Seattle and a great street for a growing neighborhood - South Lake Union.”
-- Mayor Nickels

The future of Mercer Corridor is taking shape

In 2004, the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) recommended a Two-Way Mercer and calmed, narrow Valley Street to get people moving to and through South Lake Union. The Mayor and City Council agreed this was the right choice. Now project staff is completing the environmental review and developing designs that ensure the corridor's function, look, and feel reflects the neighborhood's input and character. Join us at an **Open House on Wednesday, June 29, 2005** to learn more and share your ideas (see details inside).

A Two-Way Mercer is vital to meeting the full potential of South Lake Union

South Lake Union is growing and SDOT is developing the necessary transportation network needed to efficiently move goods and people around the area. The Project Purpose is to:

- Improve the regional connection from I-5 into South Lake Union and neighborhoods to the west and north.
- Enhance access, circulation, and safety for all transportation modes within South Lake Union.
- Accommodate the economic development and livability needs of a growing neighborhood.

An urban design concept takes shape

Three design themes emerged as a result of meeting with South Lake Union stakeholders. These themes – maritime and industrial, South Lake Union Park integration, and sustainability – will be further explored to determine how they can best integrate into one unified design concept.

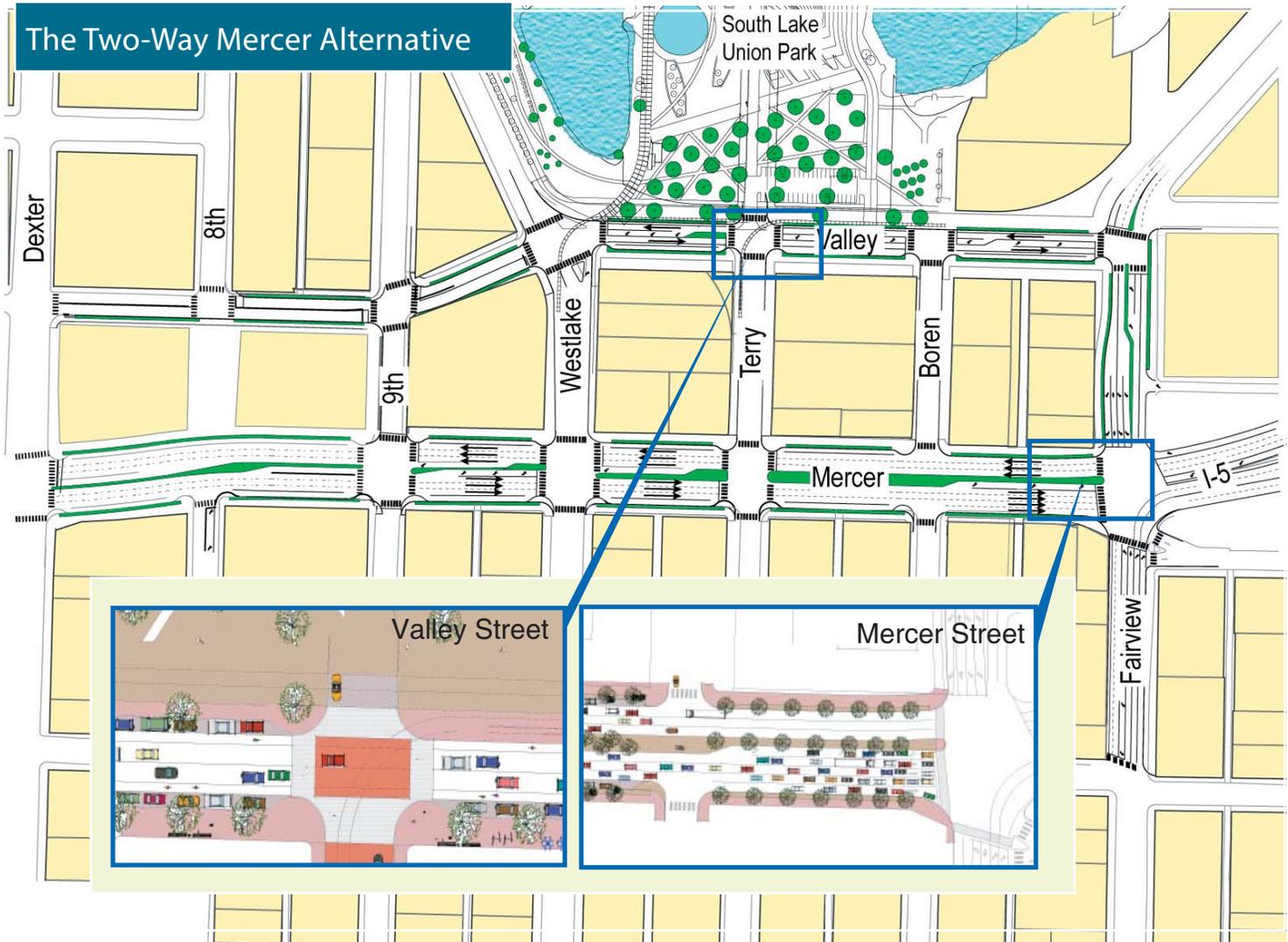
Possibilities include:

Reflecting **maritime** and **industrial** history

- Celebrate the presence of water in the neighborhood and the City of Seattle.
- Street and neighborhood amenities to reflect maritime and industrial heritage.
- Explore the transition of South Lake Union from marshlands to industrial to high tech.
- Express historic layers like Seattle's first narrow-gauge rail (Westlake), the Western Mill, and Cascade School.



The Two-Way Mercer Alternative



Addressing the needs of a changing South Lake Union

The Two-Way Mercer alternative includes:

- Widening Mercer Street to create a two-way boulevard that improves access for traffic and freight.
- Narrowing Valley Street to compliment South Lake Union Park.
- Creating a signature gateway to South Lake Union.
- Making it simple to get to other neighborhoods.
- Improving neighborhood access and circulation without increasing delays.
- Improving pedestrian crosswalks on Mercer and Valley Streets.
- Adding bicycle lanes on Valley Street and Roy Street.
- Providing for reliable, frequent east-west transit service.

Coordination with the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Project (AWV) and other projects

The AWW project includes improvements to Aurora Avenue in the South Lake Union/Queen Anne Area. These improvements will reconnect South Lake Union and Queen Anne by lowering Aurora, including Two-Way Mercer Street over Aurora, providing better connection to Aurora Avenue (SR 99) from both neighborhoods, and removing Broad Street for better circulation.

The Mercer Corridor along with the AWW Project, South Lake Union Park and South Lake Union Streetcar projects, plays an important role in growing a livable, walkable Center City -- a place where people live close to work, shops, cultural and entertainment centers. Information on these projects will be available at the June 29 open house.

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project

Get Seattle
MOVING

Please join us at a public open house to discuss the

merc
corridor
project

Wednesday, June 29

5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Presentation begins at 5:30 p.m.

South Lake Union Armory
860 Terry Avenue North
Seattle, Washington.

Refreshments provided